



February 8th, 2023

Re: House File 14 – Criminal background checks required for firearm transfers, and grounds modified for disqualification of transferee permit

Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes House File 14.

Our opposition is grounded in the following challenges with the bill:

- House File 14 imposes additional hurdles for law-abiding citizens who wish to exercise their Second Amendment right to purchase and possess firearms for the purposes of self-defense while not doing anything to stop the flow of firearms in the criminal, illicit gun market that operates in Minnesota.
- This legislation creates a paperwork trail with law enforcement, firearm dealers, or private citizens that amounts to a de facto registry of firearms and their owners, which can then be accessed by law enforcement without obtaining any sort of warrant or subpoena.
- **Firearms used in crime are not being obtained via private sales:** According to a [2019 study by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), only 8% of criminally acquired firearms were obtained through private sales. The majority of those likely met the exemptions in this bill. FBI data in Washington State after their similar bill became law showed that only 2% of firearm transactions in the state were from private party sales.
- This bill gives police broad power to deny a purchase permit which will almost certainly disenfranchise marginalized populations from exercising their constitutional rights.
- This bill requires gun owners who wish to follow the law to complete a record of every firearm transfer – and then keep that record for 20 years. The record must then be produced on demand to a law enforcement officer – a subpoena or other court order is not even required.
- This bill adopts some portions of the permit-to-carry process without providing adequate remedy for arbitrary denials, such as recovery of court costs.
- This bill creates a financial burden on law-abiding gun owners to own a firearm and possess it in one's home for self-defense.



- A [study](#) of almost two decades of firearms mortality data from California recently showed that their enactment of comprehensive universal background checks in 1991 **have had absolutely no impact on homicide or suicide rates in that state.**

On behalf of our members,

A blue ink signature of Bryan Strawser, written in a cursive style.

Bryan Strawser
Chair

A black ink signature of Robert T. Doar, written in a cursive style.

Robert T. Doar
Senior Vice President, Government Relations